

ministers, priests, rabbis, and leaders of congregations. Boys and men are able to participate more fully and are celebrated more often in many religions.

Solutions: Girls must challenge their religions and question the limits on their participation. Girls must examine their own beliefs to make sure that what they believe in is what they stand up for. Society should not assume that God has a specific gender.

PARENTS

Facts: Most parents are overprotective of their daughters because of problems like rape and kidnapping, but parents don't object to their sons staying out late. Parents often limit girls' freedom, subconsciously using bribery as a blindfold. They often give their daughters more clothes and money, disguising the truth that they are limiting their daughters' freedom.

Solutions: Parents should consider setting curfews, allowance, and chores by responsibility and age, instead of by gender. Girls should challenge their parents and society to make their surroundings a safe place to live.

STEREOTYPING

Facts: Society generates stereotypes about girls that categorize, suppress, pressure and make assumptions based on girls' past traditions. Examples of stereotypes that narrow how girls define themselves include the assumptions that girls should dress a certain way, look pretty, and be quiet, feminine, and pure. Girls have the right to be considered physically equal to boys. They have the right to be strong individuals and still be considered feminine.

Solutions: Girls must define their behavior and appearance according to their personal beliefs and preferences. Society must support and encourage girls' definitions of themselves.

CONCLUSION

In essence, girls look forward to respect, equality, good-paying jobs, and full participation in sports. Our hopes and dreams for the future are for girls and women to succeed in society and to accomplish the goals they set for themselves and for future generations. We hold the hope that girls are fully accepted by society in the near future.

On behalf of Girls International Forum, we would like to give thanks to our first foremothers: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth and Lucretia Mott. If today's society would encourage leadership in young girls and women we will have a strong tomorrow.

Signed by Girls International Forum, Seneca Falls, New York July 19, 1998.

Morgan Kremers, 14, Leah Rodriguez 18, Gaylene Fred, 14, Meredith Turner-Woolley, 13, Martha Fernandez, 16, Paloma Reyes, 16, Mariya Ho, 11, Jamie E. Bernabo, 13, Andrea Baldwin, 9, Katie Baldwin, 11, Reshma Pattni, 14, Alexia Paleologos, 8, Melissa Bagwell, 16, Gradolyn Talley, 13, and Melanie Mousseaux, 16.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL GRADISON

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, Bill Gradison. Bill served as a highly respected member of the House of Representatives from Ohio from his election in November 1974 until his retirement from the House of Representatives on January 31, 1993. I personally was fortunate to serve with Bill in the House for eight years. As many of my colleagues know, at the end of the year Bill will be stepping down from his presidency at the Health Insurance As-

sociation of America (HIAA), where he has served with great distinction for the past 6 years.

During his years at HIAA, Bill demonstrated the same knowledge, commitment and skills that he did when he served in Congress. Bill Gradison is truly an expert in health care policy. And he has worked diligently over the past few years to improve the nation's health care system and the health of the American people. Equally important, he did so at all times with great thoughtfulness and by truly being a gentleman.

In Bill's 18 years representing Ohio in the House of Representatives, he had a strong influence on many areas, including health care, the budget, taxes, social security, trade, and governmental self discipline.

Of all the issues which he studied and tackled, though, he found health care to be particularly absorbing and challenging. In Congress and out, Bill has worked tirelessly to ensure that all Americans have access to health care that is both high quality and reasonable in cost.

In Congress, Bill worked enthusiastically to promote hospice care, an innovative, compassionate approach to caring for the terminally ill and their families. In 1982, legislation which he sponsored with then Representative Leon Panetta to allow hospices to provide care under the Medicare program, was enacted. Over the years, Bill sponsored numerous other hospice-related measures that received strong bipartisan support and were subsequently enacted. Today, this humanitarian yet cost effective end of life care is widely accepted.

One of Bill's most significant non-health Congressional achievements was indexing income tax brackets and the standard deduction for inflation. Bill also was a major participant in developing the 1983 social security measures that restored the system, then teetering on bankruptcy, to solvency.

Mr. Speaker/Mr. President, I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bill on his years of dedicated service to Congress and to the HIAA, and wishing him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors. I know we will continue to be enriched by Bill's contributions to the health care debate and to public policy generally for a long time to come.●

NOMINATION OF RICHARD PAEZ TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS IN THE NINTH CIRCUIT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am deeply disappointed that the Senate appears likely to adjourn for the year without acting on the nomination of Richard Paez to the United States Court of Appeals in the Ninth Circuit. The nomination has been pending—incredibly—for almost three years.

I am very proud to say I have supported Judge Paez for over five years. I

first had the pleasure of recommending Judge Paez to the President in August of 1993 for the U.S. District Court in the Central District of California, where he currently presides. I introduced him at his hearing for the District Court seat in 1994, and was so proud that the Senate confirmed him that same year.

Judge Paez' confirmation that day was a historic moment. Judge Paez became the first Mexican American to serve as a federal trial judge in Los Angeles. He has been serving with distinction since, and continues to be widely respected.

Concerned that Judge Paez' nomination to the appellate court was in danger of not being voted on in this Congress, I wrote a letter to the Majority Leader on September 3, 1998, strongly urging that he bring up this nomination before the full Senate. If the Senate had voted, I am confident that it would have found Judge Paez to be exceptionally well qualified to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals and would have confirmed him once again.

Judge Paez' record, both on the bench as well as before the Senate Judiciary Committee, once for his district court nomination, and twice for his appellate court nomination, supports the elevation of Judge Paez to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

For 12 years, Judge Paez served on the Los Angeles Municipal Court, which is one of the largest metropolitan courts in the country. A recognized leader, his colleagues elected him to serve as both Supervising Judge and Presiding Judge.

Judge Paez was elected Chair of the L.A. County Municipal Court Judges Association, and in 1991, he was appointed by California Supreme Court Chief Justice Malcolm Lucas to be the first of two terms on the prestigious California Judicial Council, which provides policy direction to the courts, to the governor, and to the legislature, concerning court practices procedures, and its administration.

Judge Paez is supported by Sheriff Sherman Block of Los Angeles County, and Sheldon Sloan who is a former federal judge and is the former president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Representative JAMES ROGAN of California has also written in support of Judge Paez. Representative Rogan was a his colleague when they both served on the Municipal Court in Los Angeles County. Representative ROGAN states "[h]is character and integrity have never been questioned. He is an accomplished attorney and a respected jurist."

Gil Garcetti, the District Attorney for the County of Los Angeles, supports Judge Paez, and states his "broad federal and local criminal justice experience is very meaningful and should favor a positive vote for confirmation."

James Hahn, the Los Angeles City Attorney, wrote in support of Judge Paez that "his ethical standards are of